

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0234

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJ: GREEK AMBASSADOR ON RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION, CLERIDES'
RESIGNATION AND STAVROPOULOS

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR DOUNTAS CALLED ON ME JANUARY 23. HE WAS GLOOMILY PUGNACIOUS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE BRUSSELS AS THEY AFFECT RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATION. HE CONSIDERS THAT TURKS HAVE SKEWED THE BRUSSELS UNDERTAKING "180 DEGREES". IN HIS VIEW, TURKISH INSISTENCE ON VIENNA BEING PURELY PROCUDURAL MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO MAKARIOS OR, EVEN IF HE AGREES, TO WALDHAIM. DOUNTAS SAID GOG POSITION IS THAT BRUSSELS PROCES-VERBAL IS QUITE SPECIFIC ON MATTER OF SUBCOMMITTEES. THEY ARE TO CONSIDER "DETAILS" AND MAY INCLUDE MAINLAND EXPERTS "IN CASE OF NECESSITY". IT IS QUITE CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT SUBCOMMITTEES WERE INTENDED TO COME INTO BEING AFTER RPT AFTER NEGOTIATIONS HAD AGREED ON BROADER PRINCIPLES AFFECTING THEIR WORK. TURKISH STAND
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AGAINST DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE IN VIENNA IS CON-

SEQUENTLY CONTRARY TO BRUSSELS.

2. ACCORDING TO DOUNTAS, MAKARIOS' POSITION ON SUB-COMMITTEES IS IDENTICAL TO GREECE'S, AND HE WILL HAVE GOG'S FULL SUPPORT. FROM NEW YORK, GREEK AMBASSADOR REPORTS THAT WALDHEIM IS OPPOSED TO TURKISH FORMULATION AND IS ADAMANT THAT HE WILL NOT LEND HIMSELF TO ANOTHER CHARADE.

3. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, DOUNTAS SAID GREEK AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA, COSMADOPOULOS, HAD ON JANUARY 22 DELIVERED TO GOT FONMIN OFFICIAL BARUTCU THE GREEK REPLY TO TUKISH PROPOSAL ON STRUCTURE OF RESUMED NEGOTIATION: THERE COULD BE NO DEVIATION FROM BRUSSELS. DOUNTAS QUOTED BITIOS AS BEING "FLABBERGASTED" BY TURKISH REVERSAL WHEN THIS WAS CONVEYED HIM (ANKARA 0454).

4. PORTRAYING THIS AS A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, DOUNTAS THEORIZED THAT TURKEY NEEDS A NEGOTIATION TO PARRY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM BUT HAS LITTLE TO GIVE AND WANTS A NEGOTIATING STRUCTURE THAT WILL DELAY THE MOMENT OF TRUTH AND OBFUSCATE THE ISSUES. DOUNTAS DESCRIBED SUBCOMMITTEE DEVICE AS "SLOW MOVING MACHINERY" IDEALLY SUITED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF VIENNA TOOK PLACE DESPITE PRESENT DIVERGENCES, WE WOULD SEE THAT SUBCOMMITTEES WOULD SERVE TO DELAY, NOT ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATION.

5. DOUNTAS PRESSED FOR MY OPINION. I LIMITED REPLY TO ADMITTING THAT WHILE I WAS TROUBLED BY TRENDS DOUNTAS HAD CITED, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET STARTED.

6. DOUNTAS WAS CAUSTIC ABOUT CLERIDES AND HIS RESIGNATION MANEUVERS DOUNTAS SAID CLERIDES' ACTION WOULD GAIN HIM NOTHING FROM MAKARIOS. CLERIDES HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT GREEK CYPRUS HAD ONLY ONE LEADER.

7. DOUNTAS WAS ALSO DISPARAGING OF STAVROPOULOS (GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY) FOR HIS RECENT INTERVIEW ALLUDING TO NEED FOR REALISM ON BIZONALITY. DOUNTAS PATRONISINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID STAVROPOULOS LACKED THE QUALITIES OF JUDGMENT NECESSARY TO PLAY IN THE KIND OF LEAGUE INTO WHICH HE HAD GRATUITOUSLY INJECTED HIMSELF.

8. COMMENT: I CONSIDER THAT DOUNTAS MAY BE UNDULY AND PREMATURELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT EFFECT OF TURKISH POSTION ON CHANCES OF VIENNA RESUMPTION FEBRUARY 17. WHILE THE DANGERS OF WHICH HE SPOKE DO EXIST, WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY

REPORTED SIGNALS OF MAKARIOS' DECISION TO PLAY IT COOL
(E.G. HIS JANUARY 17 CONVERSATION WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
DE CUELLAR -- NICOSIA 0178).
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